

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE EARLIEST HORIZON OF THE ROMANIAN EARLY NEOLITHIC PERIOD: THE PRECRIS CULTURE

(SUMMARY)

The present paper deals with the personal opinions of the author regarding the definition of the earliest Neolithic horizon yet discovered in the territories north of the Danube.

Similar to the cultural horizons south of the Danube - defined by the specialists as *Proto-Starcevo* (Srejovic; Pavuk 1993; Brukner 1997; 2000 etc) or *the white painted ceramic horizon or groups* (Pavuk 1993) - the Precris culture evolves in the carpatho-danubian area as an distinct cultural entity, with a certain southern origin: its original material and spiritual culture shows tight connections with the Aegean, Thessalian and Anatolian areas, this reality are casting a new light upon the complex neolithisation phenomenon in the Balkan Peninsula.

The contours and the definition of this cultural phenomenon was made in time, beginning with the first discoveries from Gura Baciului by N. Vlassa (Vlassa 1972; 1980), the following from Ocna Sibiului - *Triguri* by I. Paul (Paul 1989; 1995) and from Cârcea - *La hanuri* by M. Nica (Nica 1976; 1977) and we can name here over 20 locations with discoveries of this kind found as a result of the extended and systematically conducted researches in Romania done by specialists, including the author of this paper.

If there were and still are some doubts, either for accepting the culture or the term used to define this cultural component - situated certainly ahead (*Pre-*) of the Starcevo-Cris-Körös culture's evolution - we are certain that it is just a problem of time until the wider acceptance of this evolution model, sustained as well with similar realities found in the past few years south of the Danube and that this culture will be understood and inserted within the beginning of Neolithic lifestyle in the Danube area.